

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO, GOVERNOR



RICHARD L. STALDER, SECRETARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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New P & P Officers Ready for Supervision Roles

Agents Provide Vital Public Safety Role

(Baton Rouge) Louisiana just got some help keeping its communities a little safer. The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections graduated nineteen (19) new probation and parole agents during a swearing-in ceremony Wednesday, November 21, 2007 at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge. The agents will be working in eleven of the twenty-one district offices throughout the state.

Louisiana's approximately 550 probation and parole agents are responsible for supervising more than 60,500 offenders who are released from prison on probation, parole, diminution of sentence or medical furlough. Agents ensure ex-offenders are following the terms of their release and help them with other issues such as employment, educational opportunities or accessing substance abuse treatment or mental health services.

"Agents provide both economic and public safety benefits by using community based programs designed to facilitate the offender's adjustment and reintegration into society," explained Genie Powers, Director of Probation and Parole Division for the Department. "If supervised ex-offenders follow the rules, the public is safer and the state saves money that would have otherwise gone to incarceration costs. On the other hand, agents provide prompt confinement of offenders who exhibit behavior that is a serious threat to others."

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Agents also provide investigative services to decision makers in the criminal justice system, including judges, Pardon and Parole Boards and the Governor's Office. They oversee the collection of various criminal justice fees, supervision fees and victim restitution.

New agents were required to complete the Department's P.O.S.T. (Peace Officers Standards and Training) Academy as well as a week of instruction on issues specific to Probation and Parole. Physical training, firearms training, self-defense and police and community relations were just some of the topics covered in the academy.

DPS&C Probation and Parole Academy #19

*Baton Rouge District
(East Baton Rouge Parish)*

Nicole Davis, Cori Johnson*

*Covington District
(St. Tammany, Washington)*

Steven Everly

*Donaldsonville District
(Ascension, Assumption, St. James, St. John)*

Laurie Kelleher*

*Lafayette District
(Acadia, Lafayette, Vermilion)*

Donald Broussard, Stephen Williams

*Leesville District
(Beauregard, Vernon)*

Victoria Gainey, Jacob Johnson, Carolyn Lawrence

*Minden District
(Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson and Webster)*

Bobby Roton

*Monroe District
(Caldwell, Lincoln, Union, Morehouse and Ouachita)*

Grady Kight

*Natchitoches District
(DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Winn)*

Patrick Reliford*

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*New Iberia District
(Iberia, St. Martin, St. Mary)*

Christopher Ransonet, Andrew Taylor

*New Orleans District
(Orleans, Metairie)*

Angela Howard, Matthew Rivers

*Shreveport District
(Bossier, Caddo)*

Marla Armstrong, James Burgos*, Brandon Kirby

23rd Judicial District Judge Pegram Mire addressed the graduates on their roles as critical links in the criminal justice system and administered the agents their oath of office.

Individual awards were also handed out in three distinct areas. Congratulations to Cori Johnson, who took home “Top Gun” honors for best shooting scores among the graduates. Johnson and Patrick Reliford tied for tops for the Academic award. James Burgos and Laurie Kelleher were co-winners of the Physical Fitness award.

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